



Mike Kucera

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Mike grew up on a farm near Lawrence Nebraska and graduated from the University of Nebraska with a BS in 1981 in Agronomy-Soil Science-Range Mgt, and a MS in 1999 in Water Resources Mgt. Mike has worked for USDA-NRCS for 36+ years, as a Range Conservationist in Nebraska Sandhill's, Soil Conservationist in two Nebraska locations, District Conservationist in Nebraska and Iowa, Area Resource Conservationist in Iowa; State Water Quality Specialist, State Agronomist, and State Resource Conservationist in Nebraska; and currently is an Agronomist at the National Soil Survey Center in Lincoln Nebraska. Mike assisted with the development of the Midwest/Northeast climate hub workbook "Adaptation Resources for Agriculture" and owns the Nebraska farm used as an example in the workbook that details how adaptive management and conservation measures were used to improve soil resiliency to offset the impacts of climate variability. Mike currently provides leadership for agronomy, soil quality/health, ecological sites, and related sciences to NRCS, partners and farmers across the U.S. Mike, developed soil health bucket that has been used across the U.S., and led "Soil Health Literature Review Project" to support the science behind the use of soil health practices. Mike is a Certified Crop Advisor, and was awarded the 2006 Nebraska Agribusiness Educator-Researcher of the Year, Honorary Nebraska State FFA degree in 2014 for soils training provided to over 150 Vo-Ag Educators across the state, and the 2016 USDA Abraham Lincoln Award from the Secretary of Agriculture for food security/sustainability in Pakistan through the USDA-FAS Soil Health/Fertility and Watershed Rehabilitation Projects.